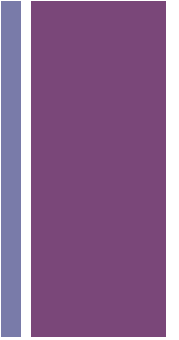


# + Cities Grow Too Fast

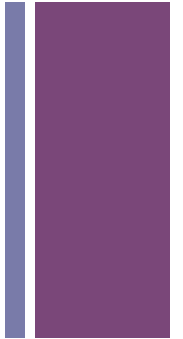


**Industrialization** brought large numbers of poor Americans & immigrants to the cities looking for jobs.

Big cities had a difficult time providing services for so many citizens. The urban poor often turned to **political machines** for help.



# **Political Machines**



Provided services and help to the urban poor in exchange for votes & political support.

## **Boss Tweed at Tammany Hall**

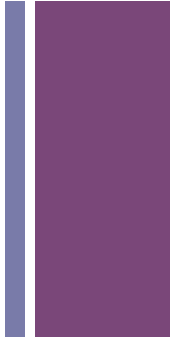
- Democratic Party headquarters, NYC
- Provided more services than any city government before it. Grateful citizens would vote for Tammany Hall's candidates. Candidates would then do the bidding of the machine bosses.

# + Boss Tweed





# Municipal Corruption



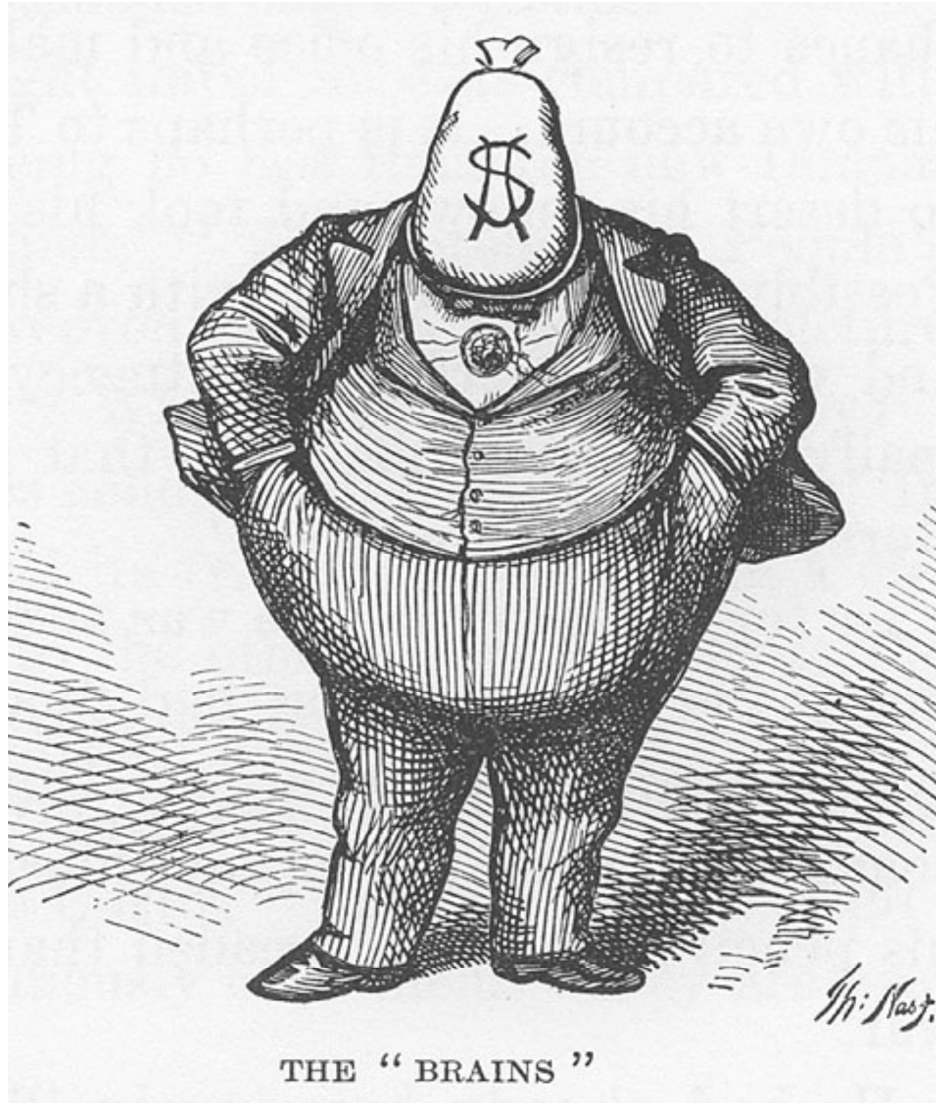
Municipality - town or city government

Corruption - secret deals & illegal politics

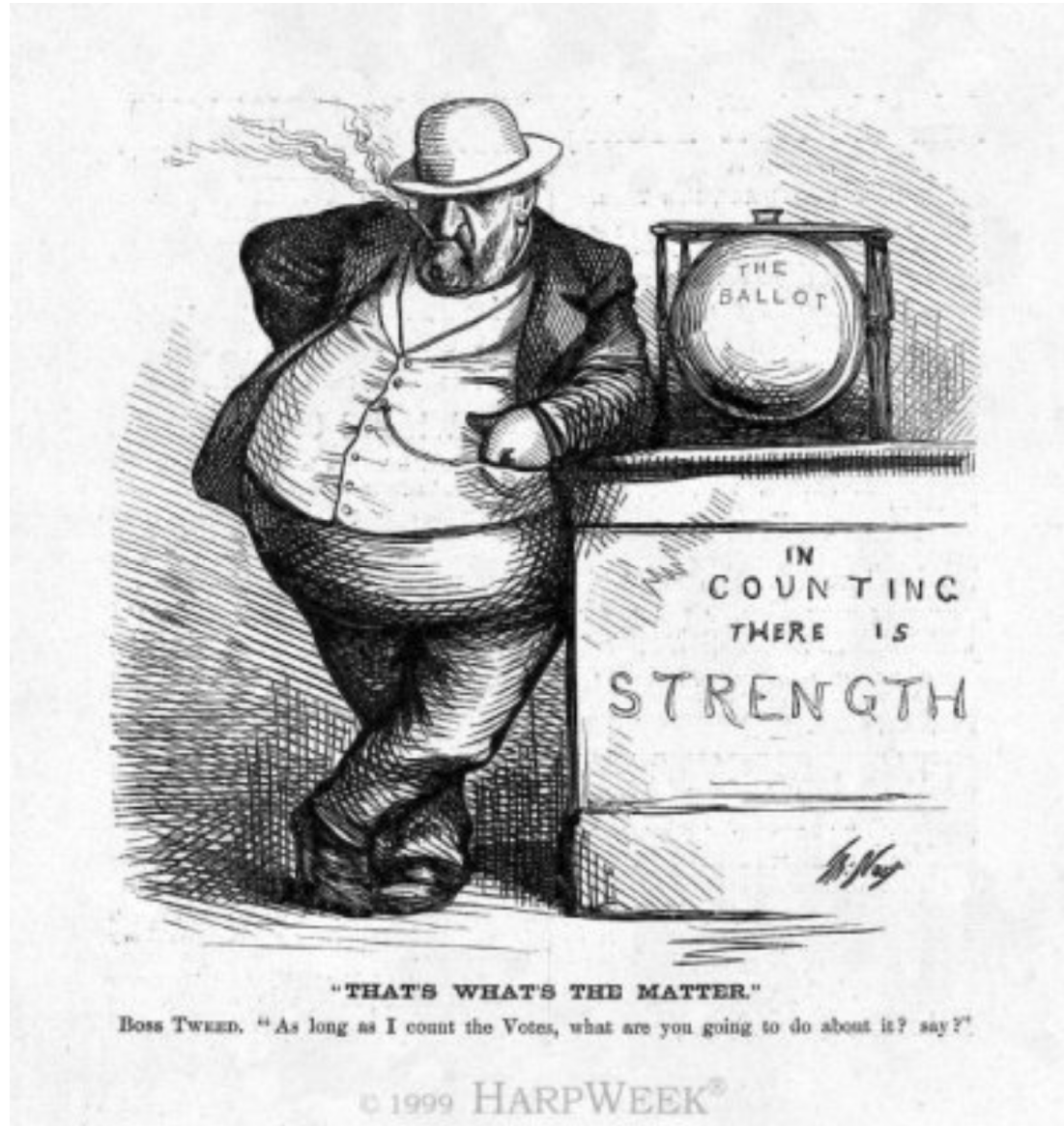
- Buying votes, bribing judges, blackmail
- **Patronage** - handing out city jobs or positions of power to political supporters (spoils system)
- **Graft** - skimming taxpayer money meant for city projects



# + Thomas Nast Cartoons



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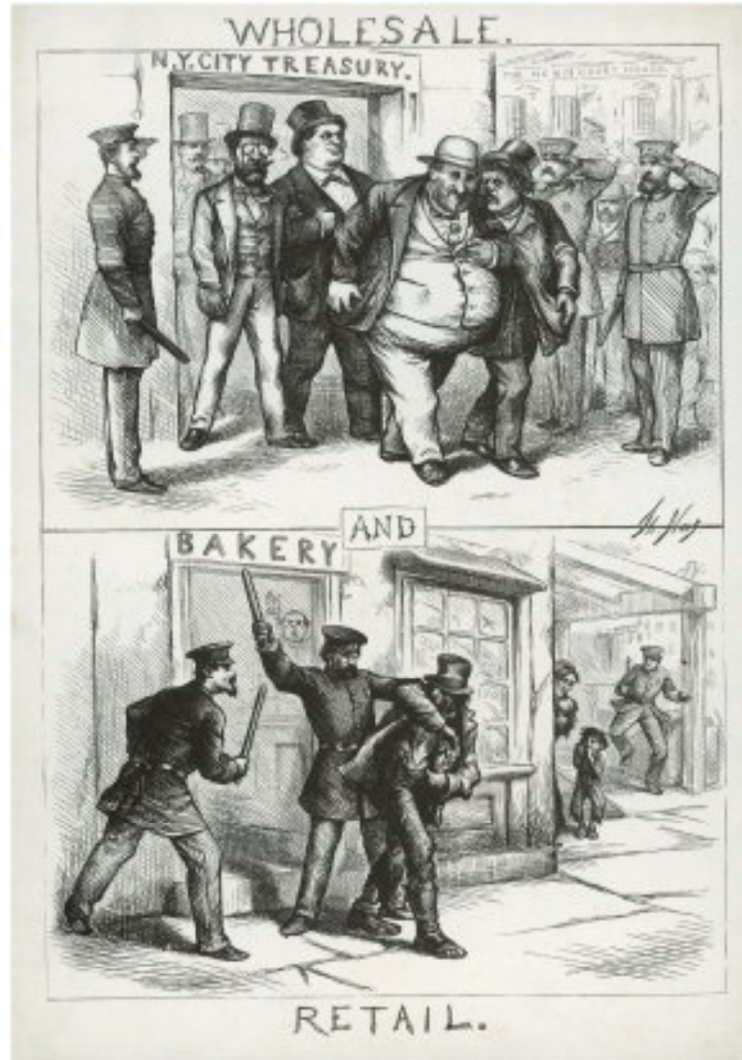


**UNDER THE THUMB.**

**THE BOSS—**“ Well, what are you going to do about it ! ”



# + Thomas Nast Cartoons



## + Thomas Nast Cartoons





# + Thomas Nast Cartoons



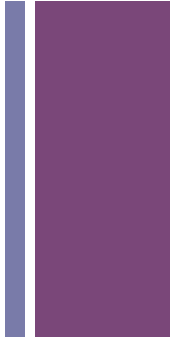
THE TAMMANY TIGER LOOSE.—“What are yon going to do about it?”  
(The first use of the famous Tiger symbol)

# + National Corruption

**Whiskey Ring** Scandal - President Grant's administration was accused of setting liquor taxes high & using the funds for Republican Party campaigns.

**Credit Mobilier** Scandal - Congressmen received kickbacks for approving federal tax money to help private companies build railroads. The funds were not supervised & millions of tax dollars were pocketed by the railroad & construction companies.

# + National Corruption



Out-of-control **spoils system** degenerated into an undemocratic “pay-to-play” politics.

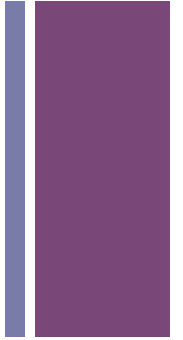
Disgruntled party supporter **assassinated** President Garfield after failing to receive a government position for his campaign contributions.

## **Pendleton Act** (1883)

- Passed to establish a **civil service system** that would staff government with trained, talented professionals hired for their qualifications, not political connections or contributions.



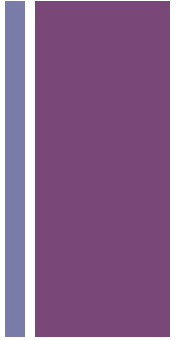
# + Political Reform



Reformers try to fight corruption with new voting procedures that bring the political process closer to voters and hold powerful people accountable.

- **Initiative** - a public petition to propose legislation to representatives
- **Referendum** - citizens vote to change a current law
- **Recall** - citizens call for a special election to remove politicians in office
- **Secret ballot** - anonymous ballots to reduce voter intimidation
- Direct election of Senators

# + Signs of Change



Tired of Gilded Age corruption, even some Republicans (called “**Mugwumps**” ) supported a change & voted for Democratic candidates.

**Sherman Antitrust Act** (1890) signals a rift in the cozy relationship between business & government.

- First national attempt to outlaw business monopolies.
- Not very effective, used mostly to break up unions.

# + Early Limits of Reform

**Sherman Antitrust Act** as an example of reform:

- Used in 1892 to force John D. Rockefeller's **Standard Oil** trust to break up into smaller, more competitive oil distribution companies

**Sherman Antitrust Act** limitations:

- Often used to send federal troops to break up strikes, benefiting wealthy campaign contributors
- **U.S. v. E.C. Knight, Co. (1895)** ruled that the federal government could not break up a monopoly that did business in only one state (states' rights)